

How to go about it?

To take this agenda forward, relevant sectors, such as social protection practitioners, disaster risk managers, climate and social science scientists should converge to discuss the elements listed below. It is important that feasibility studies consider this option, and that the following elements are taken into account both at the scoping and design stages, as well as when scaling up FbF mechanisms:

Step 1: Understand the context

First, it will be important to understand the existing social protection policy and program context in order to understand entry points. For instance, new social protection policy frameworks might offer an opportunity to align government agencies and mandates at the highest level to allow for future implementation of joint approaches. A new social assistance program could also offer an opportunity to pilot or test an FbF approach.

Step 2: In-depth technical analysis

As part of the design of an FbF system, it is important to understand how hazards relate to impacts on people's lives and livelihoods. When linking with SP mechanisms, it will be key to analyze how climate vulnerabilities and exposure overlap with existing social protection mechanisms.

Step 3: Advocate linkages between FbF and SP programs & systems

When SP programs already exist and there is a common interest in making them scalable through an FbF approach, it will be important to understand how the geographic scope and target groups overlap, as well as the specific actions that can be taken through such program. Capacity and resources are key. As part of the FbF feasibility study and advocacy strategy, it is essential to identify who is doing what and where in terms of SP (past, present and future plans)

Even if SP programs might not be ready to link with FbF mechanisms, there might be opportunities to integrate or collaborate through the use of joint systems, especially population or beneficiary registries and identification systems. It is important to understand what data is available, how it relates to climate-related vulnerabilities, how frequently it is updated, etc.

Step 4: Prioritize dialogue and understanding

It is key to incentivize dialogue and understanding across sectors, and set up a process that aims to converge objectives for anticipatory action at policy and program level.

Step 5: Start simple, build commitment

Depending on the local situation, an FbF system could be introduced in phases, first targeting the most predictable hazards with relatively simple and affordable early actions, and then expanding to more complex actions or less predictable events. It will be important that donors and governments commit to fund this and design the outcome assessments of their social protection investments to look at whether early actions have been taken and what difference they have made.

Toolbox

IFRC AA and FbF guidance

Social Protection (by RCCC)

Mapping Social Protection in Future-Climate Scenarios (by RCCC)

Social Protection in a Changing Climate (by RCCC)